



PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: ) Examiner: **not assigned**  
**Hungerpiller, et al.** ) Group Art Unit: **3651**  
Serial No: **10/057,608** ) Attorney Docket No.: **R105 1010.1**  
Filed: **01/24/2002** )  
For: **System and Method for Processing Returned Mail**

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GROUP 3600

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the first Examiner's Action for the above-identified patent application, please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please substitute the following amended claims 1, 2, 7, 9 – 11, 16, 18 – 20, and 22 - 27, as set forth below, for claim claims 1, 2, 7, 9 – 11, 16, 18 – 20, and 22 - 27 as originally filed in the above-identified application. A copy of the amended claim showing the amendments made thereto, including additions being shown with underlining and deletions being shown in brackets, is attached in the appendix herewith.

1. A method for processing a plurality of undeliverable mail items comprising the steps of:

encoding data including identification information on each of a plurality of mail items prior to mailing;

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